



# *The Ripline*



[www.bris.ac.uk/depts/union/BUHABS](http://www.bris.ac.uk/depts/union/BUHABS)

Issue 6 2001/2002

Newsletter of the BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY  
in association with the U.W.E HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

Welcome to Issue 6 of Ripline for this academic year! For most, exams are over and so it's the ideal opportunity to come flying! This issue is going to be the last for this academic year, so enjoy!

The 16th Anniversary meal was originally going to be at Sultan's Indian restaurant. Unfortunately, they mucked up our booking. We all got rather upset (especially Tim!), read the full story on page 3!

The meal was preceded by the Annual General Meeting. Since the last AGM, the club had to contend with months of grounding caused by the Foot and Mouth outbreak, this year the weather has put a dampener on things, but we are now in "members fortnight", a great opportunity for flying! Lots more details about that and flying over the summer are included.

Ellie Fearon [REDACTED] and Hugo Williams ([REDACTED])

## AGM and 2003/2003 Committee

The main aim of the AGM is the election of the new committee who will guide BUHABS through the next year. The committee for next year is as follows:

**PRESIDENT**  
**SECRETARY and P.U.T.**  
**UNION TREASURER**  
**TRANSPORT OFFICER**  
**SENIOR PILOT/FLYING TREASURER**  
**WEBSITE EDITOR**  
**SOCIAL SECRETARY**  
**PILOTS**

Hugo Williams  
Ellie Fearon  
Nicola Hetherington  
Simon Church  
Paul Spellward  
Ed Kay  
*Vacant*  
Lee Hooper  
Tim Dudman  
Simon Jenkins (P.U.T)

Congratulations to Ellie, who has been selected to be the next BUHABS Pilot Under Training (P.U.T.). BUHABS aims to train at least one pilot per year. Training to be a pilot is an enormous challenge, and BUHABS can only survive because of the regular pilot training programme. As with everything in BUHABS, the best way to make the most of the many different opportunities BUHABS presents is to get involved in the committee and the running of the club. We need enthusiastic and interested people for all sorts of jobs, not just flying. As always, e-mail Hugo if you're interested, and he'll happily discuss it with you.

## President's report - 2001/2002

Another year has passed by and it's time for my second President's report. I looked over last years report before writing this and was both happy and sad. Happy because we did so much in 2000 but sad because we had done so little this last year.

Foot and Mouth set in in February just before the AGM and grounded us for the best part of 8 months. Over the summer, however, we managed an excellent ten days flying in Vermenton.

August saw the Bristol Fiesta have one of its worst ever years with a handful of balloons allowed to take off. BUHABS managed about half an inflation!

In September the committee decided enough was enough and agreed to resume flying in accordance with agreed Western Region rules and disinfecting procedures. As a result we managed a very successful winter term, flying a lot of first time flyers.

In January the all clear was officially given for foot and mouth and the disinfectant kits were no longer needed. We attended the Icicle balloon meet but were fogged out on both days.

Since then the balloon has flown only once for a 20 minute hop after its annual C of A (Certificate of Airworthiness — MOT). Typical wet and windy weather has put a dampener on things.

The van continues to struggle on and requires more work each year. The current sponsors have been offered another year for free as a goodwill gesture since the balloon hardly flew last year. The only upside is that we didn't put any more hours on the envelope.

I have yet to complete my flying training but have been recommended for a test and hope to do so as the weather improves. We will then start training another pilot.

On a more positive note we should look forward to the future. The ballooning season is about to start and we have a number of events booked for the coming year. Hopefully we will be back to regular flying in the very near future.

All in all it has been a very bad year for BUHABS, in fact, its worst ever. I sincerely hope there is not another year like it for the society and there are plenty of soft landings in 2002.

Simon Jenkins  
President 2000-2002

*On behalf of all BUHABS members over the last 2 years, the committee would like to thank Simon for all the hard work he has, and continues to put into BUHABS. We're all looking forward to flying with him soon — Eds.*



THE BUHABS VAN ON THE  
MORNING AFTER THE CURRY NIGHT

### CAPTION COMPETITION

An anonymous suggestion was received for a picture in a previous Ripline, so we've decided to make Caption competitions a regular thing..... Watch this space!

## 16th Anniversary Meal

The BUHABS revellers arrived at Sultan's on Cotham Hill and expected to be treated with the respect deserved by such an important occasion! Unfortunately they had double booked us! So we went to La Quintos, a Mexican just up the road. The food, Sangria and atmosphere were superb - the only disappointment was with Ellie's "Frango con Banana", which was made of "little bits of crushed up banana." Her view was that "when I have banana, I like a big banana!"

The evening was a great success, and proceeded to Brasserie Pierre on Park Street, then for some on to the Hot Spot take away on Whiteladies Road on the way back up the hill!

Hugo

## Members Fortnight!

By now you're inboxes should be full of the daily newsletters to keep you up to date with flying opportunities! We're doing our best to make sure we offer as many slots as possible—so if you're interested in flying and crewing please do e-mail the contact in the e-mail bulletins! Bear in mind that crewing points do roll over from one year to the next so crewing now is worthwhile, and great fun in its own right! Don't worry if you've not been flying yet, or if you've only been out once or twice, we want to make sure everyone feels involved, and gets the maximum opportunity to fly!

Hugo

## Summer Flying

Despite our constant prayers to the Gods of the sunshine and not-windiness the weather this year has been fairly pants but now the summer's here there will be ample opportunity to do some much missed flying. Woo-ho!

If you are around in Bristol this long happy summer send me an email at any time and let me know when you are available. If you let us know you're interested we'll chase you up (don't be scared!) if anything's available, or if we don't know that you're around, we can't. See you soon :-)

Ellie

## Are you the FRESH Prince of Hot Air?

Believe it or not it's already time to think about (getting??) FRESH. No Tim and Simon are not getting randy in the heat of the burners, we need people to help recruit for next year. It's also a great opportunity to get involved with your fantastic society :-)

We've got lots of exciting plans - tethered flights and bar crawls, etc. so email Hugo if you're up for a bit of Fresh fun!

Ellie

## More Gems from the web.....

*From an American Website ([www.launch.net/faq.html](http://www.launch.net/faq.html)), some Q & A about ballooning:*

**What if you have to go to the bathroom?**

Pre-planning is the key! Since flights average about an hour or so, pre-planning pays off in this regard.

There are no bathrooms aboard the balloon. *[Really, we'd never noticed! Eds.]*

**Can I smoke in or around a hot air balloon?**

It's not advisable because of the possibility of propane fires or explosions from leaks, although leaks are extremely rare. The balloon fabric can also be damaged by a stray spark or hot ash.

There is a strict non-smoking rule at most balloon festivals.

*From [www.ballooning.org/ballooning/prayer.html](http://www.ballooning.org/ballooning/prayer.html).... We'll be testing you on it next time you come flying (!)*

**The Balloonist's Prayer**

May the winds welcome you with softness.  
May the sun bless you with his warm hands.  
May you fly so high and so well  
that God joins you in laughter  
and sets you gently back into  
the loving arms of Mother Earth.

**Weigh Off**

May the winds be gentle, the stars be bright  
May the pilot be skilled, the landing light  
May the crew be timely, the recovery easy  
SO WEIGH OFF

## A Bit Of History

If ever you have been kept awake at night by thoughts about our lovely balloons here's some fuel for your fire.....

No. of BUHABS flights :	1340 (approx.)
Average no. of flights per year :	60-70
No. of flights per balloon	
G-BMJZ (1986-1988) :	340
G-OUVI (1989-1991) :	202
G-BTKW (1991-1996) :	336
G-BUVW (1994-1997) :	200 (approx)
G-BXBM (1997-now) :	236

If anyone else has any interesting facts let us know. They should really be balloon related but if they're not I don't mind!

Since the last Ripline, Lee has gone to Canada to fly balloons commercially for the summer season. But don't worry, he'll be back flying for BUHABS in the winter. We wish him all the best, and are very jealous that he's getting decent weather !

